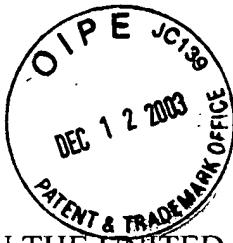


P24195.A01



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Nobumasa SUZUKI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3732

Appln. No. : 10/659,303

Examiner:

Filed : September 11, 2003

For : VERTEBRA BODY PLATE FOR VERTEBRAL COLUMN FIXING
SYSTEM

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

Prior to the examination on the merits of the above identified patent application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to amend the Abstract as follows:

Please substitute the following Abstract for the Abstract contained in the application: